

Message Text

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R 161330Z MAY 74

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY CANBERRA

S E C R E T STATE 101876

FOLLOWING REPEAT LONDON 5936 SENT ACTION SECSTATE

INFO MOSCOW NEW DELHI USUN, MAY 13TH:

QUOTE S E C R E T LONDON 05936

SECSTATE FROM AMBASSADOR MOYNIHAN

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, PARM, MARR, US, XO

SUBJECT: INDIAN OCEAN POLICY

1. AM THRILLED TO LEARN THAT DEPARTMENT APPRECIATIVE
THOUGHTFUL VIEWS TO BE FACTORED FORMULATION SUBSTANTIVE
RESPONSE. RUMOR HATH IT QUOTE INTERAGENCY STUDY NOW IN
PROGRESS UNQUOTE IN TRUTH HERALDS APPEARANCE OF ALL-
KNOWING NISSEM. NOW THAT POLICY HAS BEEN MADE URGENT
GROUNDS FOR IT NEED TO BE DISCOVERED.

2. AMBASSADOR BENNETT'S REPORT FROM NEW YORK (FOR WHICH
WE THANK HIM AND THE AUSTRALIANS) IS BAD NEWS FOR OUR
CAUSE. TO THE BEST OF MY BELIEF -- I WILL SAY NOTHING OF
MY KNOWLEDGE, AS I HAVE NONE--THE THREE EXPERTS ARE WRONG
AND VICIOUSLY SO IN STATING THAT OUR CURRENT PROPOSAL IS
TO CONVERT DIEGO GARCIA INTO QUOTE FULL-FLEDGED NAVAL AND
AIR BASE UNQUOTE. HOWEVER THEY ARE ONLY REPEATING WHAT
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HIGH AMERICAN OFFICIALS HAVE SAID OR IMPLIED. WE HAVE ON-

LY OURSELVES TO BLAME FOR THIS SETBACK.

3. AMBASSADOR STOESSEL'S SUGGESTION OF A BILATERAL US-INDIAN DECLARATION IS MOST WELCOME TO ME. THE SECRETARY IS, OF COURSE, PLANNING TO BE IN INDIA BEFORE VERY LONG. WE SHOULD BE ABLE TO GET SOMETHING OF SORT OUT OF THEM' OUR PROBLEM IN DELHI, AS PERHAPS ELSEWHERE, IS THAT INFLUENTIAL AND POSSIBLY WELL-INFORMED GROUPS WITHIN THE GOVERNMENT AND THE BUREAUCRACY ARE CONVINCED, AS THEY WILL STATE OPENLY TO VISITING JOURNALISTS, THAT THE AMERICAN CONGRESS AND THE BRITISH LABOR PARTY ARE QUOTE THE TWO WEAK LINKS UNQUOTE IN OUR CHAIN. THEY HOPE TO MAINTAIN PRESSURE ON THOSE LINKS. OUR QUARTERDECK APPROACH TO INDIAN OCEAN POLICY HAS OF COURSE MUCH ENHANCED THE PROSPECT THAT INTERESTS ABROAD NOT NOTABLY FRIENDLY TO THE UNITED STATES OR ITS ALLIES WILL SUCCEED IN STIRRING UP INTERNAL DIVISIONS ON OUR SIDE.

4. IT MAY BE AMBASSADOR STOESSEL HAS SUGGESTED A WAY OUT OF SOME OF OUR TROUBLES. IF THE RUSSIANS NEED THE INDIAN OCEAN IN TIME OF WAR WITH CHINA, THEY HAVE NO CLEAR INTEREST IN ITS BEING DECLARED A ZONE OF PEACE IN SUCH A WAY AS TO PREVENT THEIR DEVELOPING THEIR FACILITIES. DOES THIS GIVE US SOME LEVERAGE? MIGHT WE NOT SUGGEST TO THEM THAT IT IS NOT IN THEIR INTERESTS FOR THEIR FRIENDS IN SOUTH ASIA TO BE CARRYING ON AS THEY NOW DO?

SOHM

UNQUOTE RUSH

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